



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program

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ROUTE 66 CORRIDOR PRESERVATION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZED

ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA, ILLINOIS, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEW MEXICO, OKLAHOMA, TEXAS

Santa Fe — On March 30, 2009, President Obama signed into law the **Route 66 Corridor Preservation Reauthorization Act of 2008**, extending the popular National Park Service program for ten more years. Created in 1999 as Public Law 106-45, the program provides technical assistance and cost-share grants to preserve historic sites across the eight states through which Route 66 passes.

"The reauthorization of this important funding program means not only the continued preservation and enhancement of the Mother Road, but acts as a true economic stimulus for a segment of the nation in need of a boost at this critical time," said author and Route 66 historian, Michael Wallis.

Originally authorized for appropriations up to \$10 million, the program has received \$2.88 million to date. These funds have enabled the program to issue 86 cost-share grants for the restoration of restaurants, motels, gas stations and neon signs, as well as for planning, research and educational initiatives.

In 2008, Senators Jeff Bingaman and Peter Domenici and Representative Heather Wilson, the sponsors of the 1999 bill, collaborated again on legislation to extend the program another decade. The legislation was passed through the Senate and House as part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (H.R. 146).

The reauthorization will enable the NPS to continue its collaborations with individuals, nonprofits, local, state, federal, and tribal agencies, to stimulate historic preservation and economic development along the historic highway.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

“With its extension, everyone — including the traveling public, merchants, and the small towns and large cities along the historic Route 66 corridor — will reap the benefits and emerge as winners,” said Wallis.

Kaisa Barthuli, Acting Program Manager, says the program will continue to offer grants and technical assistance, and seek public input as to how the program can best serve the needs of the corridor into the future. “Preserving the special places of the Route 66 corridor creates unique economic and community development opportunities.” said Barthuli. “Preservation helps stimulate new business and tourism, while commemorating an important part of our nation’s transportation history. We look forward to the next ten years as an opportunity to build sustainable solutions for the long-term protection of the route.”

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